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Alabama





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# ALABAMA

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**ALABAMA LEADS THE NATION  
IN PEANUT PRODUCTION**



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1919

# Welcome to Alabama

Hon. THOMAS E. KILBY

Governor of Alabama

Alabama offers superior advantages and opportunities to the thrifty home-seeker and the investor looking for legitimate returns.

Alabama has caught the literal meaning of the President's ringing words, "the war is over," and opens wide her doors to all classes of people who would engage in the development of our great natural wealth and in all peaceful pursuits.

Moderately priced farming lands, great areas of fertile cut-over lands, an unsurpassed climate with an average growing season of two hundred to two hundred and twenty-five days, perennial streams and ample fuel supply are material assets which Alabama can offer to the farmer and stock grower of limited means. Alabama farmers are no longer mere cotton raisers. They diversify and specialize. Alabama leads in acreage and yield of two or more food and feed crops of the nation, and is now producing almost half as many hogs as Missouri.

Industrial Alabama has attracted the attention of the world—its mines, furnaces, factories and foundries have made amazing progress—and today its future is full of promise. The great twenty million dollar nitrate plant now being erected by the national government at Muscle Shoals will prove to be a master industrial achievement. The shipbuilding plants at Mobile, and the development of Alabama's water powers and inexhaustible mineral resources offers inducements of telling force to both capital and labor.

Alabama's citizenship is its most priceless asset. No people on the globe are more liberal minded, law-abiding and progressive. They extend a genuine Alabama welcome to all new citizens and prospective home-seekers. The State Immigration Bureau, Montgomery, Alabama, will answer all inquiries and mail State literature on request.

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# UNITED STATES RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAILROADS

## *Foreword*

This booklet is different from any you have ever received, and is sent you because you have asked for information regarding Alabama. It is issued by the United States Railroad Administration in response to a demand for authoritative and accurate information regarding the possibilities for farming, orcharding and live stock raising in Alabama.

The matter has been prepared by representatives of all the roads under Federal control serving the State. You will note that no particular section or county is described in detail, but the State is treated as a whole, with only such sectional references as the geographical and climatic conditions make necessary.

There are no extravagant phrases in praise of Alabama and its resources and the opportunities there offered to the newcomer. The purpose of the book is simply to convey reliable information regarding the State, and the plain statements herein regarding its crops, supplemented by photographs, all of which have been taken within the State, speak for themselves.

The officers of the United States Railroad Administration and officials of the several railroads serving Alabama simply wish to add to what is contained in this booklet, that the man seeking a new home can well afford to visit Alabama before deciding upon his location.

*Issued by*

UNITED STATES RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

Agricultural Section

J. L. EDWARDS, Manager

Washington, D. C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ADDRESS



## An Appreciation of the South

By Hon. Franklin K. Lane  
Secretary of the Interior

**M**Y RECENT trips into the South have convinced me that there are wonderful possibilities for agricultural development in that section. In many of the Southern States there are large areas of the richest kinds of land suitable for diversified farming, stock raising, and fruit growing, which have never been put into cultivation. The rainfall is abundant and the crop-growing season a long one. I am satisfied that most satisfactory location from a standpoint of **climate, productivity, sanitation and health**, and other requirements are available in those States for community settlements for returning soldiers and sailors, as well as for others intending to engage in agriculture.

Washington, D. C., February 28, 1919.

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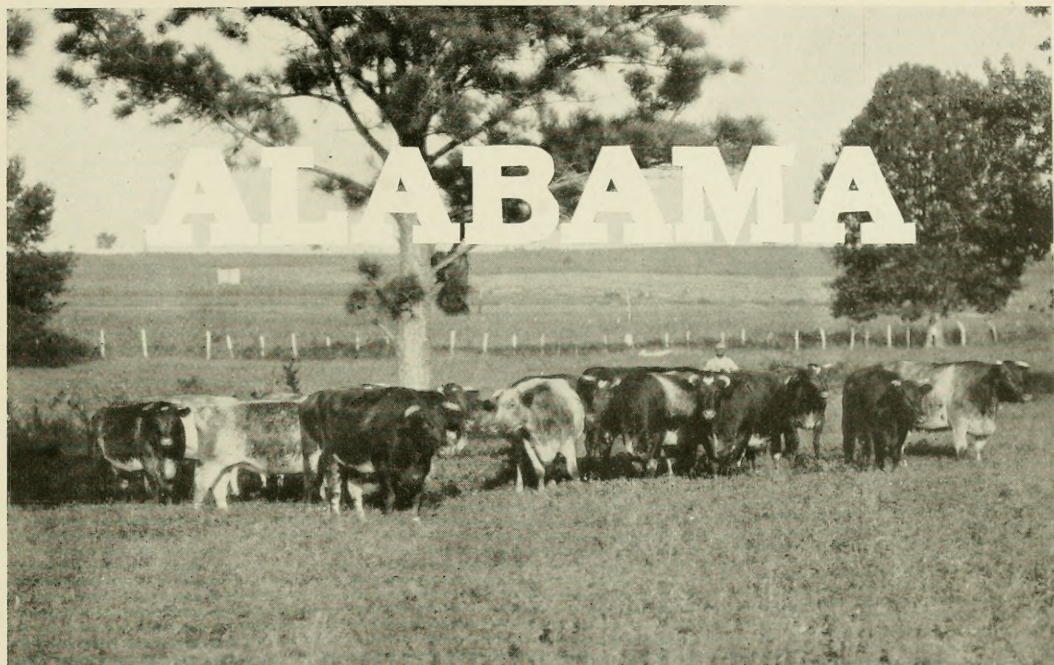
## Cheapest Agricultural Lands

"I am convinced that a very large majority of the returning soldiers for whom it is planned to make provision, could be taken care of in the coastal plain of the South.

I am convinced that here are the cheapest lands adaptable to agriculture in the entire country, all things considered. \* \* \* \* In the past two decades enormous areas of pine forests have been denuded of their merchantable timber, and these lands are now available for clearing and are now ready for agricultural uses."—**Hon. H. T. Cory**, Consulting Engineer, United States Department of Interior, in charge Federal Investigations in the South.

Savannah, Ga., November 11, 1918.





**F**ROM PULPIT ROCK, which proudly rears its head 2,000 feet high in the extreme northern part of Alabama, to the Southernmost counties, whose shores are lapped by the blue sparkling waters of the Mexican Gulf, Alabama unrolls a panorama before the man desirous of locating in another section that is hard to improve upon.

### **A Diversified State.**

With its diversity of latitude and altitude, the State produces practically all of the products of the temperate and semi-tropical zones. It is one of the few States that raises both wheat and cotton, apples and oranges, and all of the agricultural and horticultural products between these widely-separated extremes.

Its diversity of grasses is also marked, and ranges from alfalfa in the limestone soils of the State to the democratic Bermuda grass and lespedeza, which are every year gaining greater favor with the stockmen on account of their ability to stand heavy and constant grazing.

The State might be divided into the following rough geographical divisions:

### **The Tennessee Valley.**

The Tennessee Valley, extends along the northern boundary of the State from east to west and is watered by the Tennessee River, which flows entirely across the State. In this valley is to be found almost every conceivable crop in the seedsman's catalogue, ranging from wheat to cotton, and from alfalfa and the other clovers to velvet beans and soy beans.

Here are to be found extensive cotton plantations, live stock and general farms, truck gardens and nurseries.

### **The Mineral Section.**

The Mountain, or Mineral Region, extends from the northeast corner of the State and ranges in a southwesterly direction, with the hills diminishing in size as they approach the Gulf Coast. Orchardng here has been developed to an extremely high degree, live stock raising flourishes, and practically all of the minerals known to industry are found in almost inexhaustible quantities.





Sheep on an Alabama Pasture in February.

### Central Alabama.

Central Alabama might be said to include a large portion of the cotton-producing area of the State, which comprises a large number of old plantations, and up-to-date live stock and general farms.

During 1918, there were 681 cars of cattle and 373 cars of hogs shipped from ten counties in Central Alabama and the "Black Soil Belt", which is a decided change from the all-cotton system of farming formerly in vogue.

### The Black Soil Belt.

The "Black Soil Belt" is a portion of Western Alabama that has become nationally known for the reason that it takes its name from the color of the soil in this region, which is almost as black as soils composed of alluvial deposits. This is also a section of old plantations which are being converted into extensive dairy and beef cattle farms, and immense plantations that were once covered with fleecy cotton are now resplendent in alfalfa blooms.

Many soils in this section are of limestone formation, on which alfalfa and the other clovers thrive.

### The Cut-Over Section.

The Cut-over Section comprises the entire Southern portion of the State that was once covered with yellow pine trees, and it is being rapidly and intensively



Corn with Velvet Beans Coming Up in Middles Making Two Crops on Same Acre.





Harvesting Wheat Crop in Northern Alabama.

developed along every conceivable line of agricultural, live stock and horticultural endeavor.

The soils have proven exceedingly productive, and all of the crops of the temperate zone and many indigenous to the sub-tropical zone are being produced here in vast quantities.

Because there is so much more land in this section than there are farmers to properly cultivate it, the lands are still to be had at low prices, and upon practically any terms of payment that the purchaser wishes to make.

### The Gulf Coast.

The Gulf Coast section of Alabama, as its name implies, is composed of those counties whose shores are washed by the bays that are formed by the outlying islands which protect the State from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The soils on the Gulf Coast are not sterile sands, but all have clay subsoils, and are suited not only for the trucking industry, which is here developed to an exceedingly high degree, but also for all other phases of agricultural, live stock and horticultural endeavor.

It is in this part of the State that the Satsuma Orange has been developed to such an astonishing extent in the past five or six years.

In addition to the carloads of Satsumas that are shipped from the Gulf Coast, hundreds of cars of cabbages, Irish and sweet potatoes, watermelons and cucumbers are shipped each year.

In one of the Gulf Coast counties sweet and Irish potato shipments in the Summer and Fall of 1918 amounted to a half million dollars, and 15 years ago



North Alabama Cotton Making Over a Bale to the Acre.



Shorthorn Calves.

there were but few farmers in the county, as at that time the sawmills were busily engaged in felling pine trees and converting them into lumber.

### Sandy Loam Lands.

For countless centuries South Alabama has been covered with a tremendous wealth of yellow pine trees which remained and continued to grow until the timber more accessible to the marts of trade and commerce, had been converted into lumber. This, of course prevented the development of this section, because no farming could be done in the forests.

After the White Pine of the North had been pretty generally converted into lumber, the sawmill men began cutting the yellow pine timber, and have now reached such a stage in their milling operations that there are vast areas cut over and ready for the settler. These cut-over lands have never been cropped, but for centuries have been growing up in grasses indigenous to this soil.

Practically all of these lands are sandy loams, underlaid with a heavy clay subsoil at a distance ranging from a few inches to several feet below the surface, and numerous demonstrations on a large scale at widely separated sections throughout this cut-over land territory have conclusively demonstrated that with intelligent handling these soils are capable of producing far more than the stiffer and heavier soils that are found in Northern states.

The large land owners, Federal and State Agricultural Agents, and Agricultural Specialists of the railroads have expended much money toward developing exact information as to the proper methods of economically producing farm crops in



One of Alabama's Fine Roads.





Sheep on Winter Pasture.

this cut-over section, and there is no need for the newcomer to experiment or take chances on any methods of farming. All that it is necessary for him to do is to follow the information thus secured and he will be insured success.

As a concrete illustration of what these cut-over lands are capable, it might be mentioned that five years ago peanuts were grown only as a grazing crop, and comparatively few cattle were raised although a few were allowed to range wild. In 1918 ten counties in Southeast Alabama produced 12,763,000 bushels of peanuts, valued at \$15,208,000, which is 22% of all the peanuts raised in the United States, the total crop being 55,597,000 bushels, and 14% of the value of the total crop of \$95,829,000.

During 1918, there were 2352 cars of hogs shipped out of seventeen counties in South Alabama. Up to 1912 no hogs had been shipped from this section.

In the cut-over lands tobacco has also been successfully and profitably introduced, while another section has taken the lead of all the South as an early sweet potato district.

### Livestock.

Alabama for many years has been known as a "Cotton State", because of the tremendous crop of this fleecy staple that it produced, but with the modern trend everywhere in favor of a permanent agriculture, based upon livestock, the State has gone extensively into the raising of cattle and hogs.

Cotton was formerly the one "money" crop grown, because it will perhaps stand more neglect and abuse than any other product grown in the soil and be sure of



Herefords and Hay Thrive Equally Well in Alabama.



Shorthorns on Alfalfa in January.

returning a fair yield, and it is the one crop that the planter could permit the tenant to raise, in perfect security that no matter how badly the plant was treated, it would be sure to return him profit.

Because of the demand for labor in the industries, the Alabama farmer has adopted a live stock system of farming, and is finding it exceedingly profitable.

**The Following Table, Showing the Number and Value of Horses and Mules, Cattle and Hogs on Farms and Ranges in Alabama Has been Prepared by the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates.**

No better description of Alabama's growth along lines of diversification and live stock raising could possibly be shown than the following figures. Ordinarily statistics are dry, but when the amazing growth in all classes of livestock between 1910 and 1919 is noted, comment is unnecessary.

	April 15, 1910		January 1, 1919	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Horses and Mules -----	382,782	\$45,228,501	459,000	\$67,473,000
Cattle (including milk cows)	932,428	13,409,626	1,345,000	49,331,000
Hogs -----	1,266,733	4,356,520	2,223,000	37,791,000



A Bunch of Herefords.





Rich Pastures Make Cheap Grains.

Hogs sold or slaughtered.

1909		1918	
Number	Value	Number	Value
704,000	\$7,747,000	1,405,800	\$33,735,000

Cattle sold or slaughtered from the farms.

1909		1918	
Number	Value	Number	Value
280,000	\$4,178,000	523,500	\$16,864,000

Year 'Round Pastures.

Enjoying a combination of grasses, like Bermuda, lespedeza and carpet grass for Spring, Summer and Fall grazing, and burr clover, crimson clover and vetches for Winter, the stockman has grazing the year 'round for his cattle.

With alfalfa and melilotus, (in certain sections), cowpeas, velvet beans and soy beans for hay; and corn, Japanese Cane and the various sorghums for silage in every part of the State, the farmer is never at a loss for something with which to feed his herds.

In addition to the inexhaustible quantity of feed that can be produced on a minimum acreage, the open winters do not require any elaborate barns for the housing of the cattle during the winter months.

For hogs there are the grazing crops before mentioned, and in addition, rape, chufas, cull sweet potatoes and peanuts, all of which are raised at slight cost, and harvested by the hogs at no expense whatever.



All Varieties of Hay Yield Heavily.



Some Black Soil Belt Duroc Jerseys.

In Alabama a number of men who were formerly cotton growers, exclusively, now ship in cattle from the livestock yards, run them on velvet bean fields, and after finishing them on cotton seed meal and corn, send them back to the stock yards, where in a number of instances they have topped the market.

Several years ago when prices were normal the Alabama Experiment Station demonstrated that the expense of producing a steer, varied from \$4.90 per hundred weight for one thirty-three months old, to \$5.07 for one twelve months of age.

#### Top Prices for Hogs.

Alabama hogs have also enjoyed the distinction of commanding the highest prices in the St. Louis stock yards. By reason of the ease with which hogs are raised few stock hogs are shipped into the state. The hog raiser counts on getting two litters a year, and by reason of the mild seasons he can plan these litters, so as to enable him to finish his hogs and market them, and not come in competition with the tremendous number of corn-fed hogs that swamp the markets each year in the late Fall in the North.

The Alabama Experiment Station has demonstrated that hogs can be raised on peanuts and Alabama pastures, at a less cost than any other known combination of feed, having produced them in time of normal prices, for less than two cents.

During the past several years when certain sections of the country were visited by severe and prolonged droughts, the Alabama pastures and even the open range were so attractive, that thousands of head of cattle from the drought-stricken area were sent into Alabama.

The open range in the State offers splendid grazing early in the season, and the switch cane in the creek bottoms keep the cattle on the open range in fine condition throughout the Winter.



A Dairy Herd.





Two Acres of this Corn Yielded 400 Bushels in the Tennessee Valley.

### **Dairy Conditions Almost Ideal.**

With silage cutting from 12 to 15 tons to the acre; twelve months open pasturage; with cattle living out-doors all the time; lumber for feed and milking barns to be had at very low prices; cheap labor for caring for stock; cotton seed meals, the finest concentrate for dairy cows yet discovered, produced right at home; with home mills grinding velvet beans into meal, which with cottonseed meal forms a perfectly-balanced ration; with unlimited markets within one night's travel in every direction; with transportation facilities for moving products all that could be asked—there is nothing that will prevent Alabama from becoming one of the leading dairy districts in the Union.

### **All Breeds Represented.**

In Alabama can be found breeders of Jersey and Holstein dairy stock, and Shorthorn, Red Poll, Aberdeen Angus and Hereford beef cattle.

Many head of cattle are shipped into the State each year for grazing and are finished on the velvet bean fields and corn. A velvet bean field lends itself wonderfully well to live stock raising, as the cattle are simply turned into the fields after the corn has been picked, and harvest the beans, vines and blades with no expense whatever for shocking or handling.

### **Ready Markets.**

There are large stock yards in the Central part of the State and these yards together with the numerous packing houses and abattoirs offer a ready local market for those who do not care to ship to the big markets.



A Forty-acre, Bearing Pecan Orchard.



**Shorthorns Given as Prizes to Corn Club Boys.**

Many towns in Alabama have formed co-operative hog-raising associations, and on specified dates, weekly or semi-monthly, have hog sales, to which are attracted buyers from many points, who by reason of the tremendous demand for hogs of all sorts, furnish a competitive demand for them.

There are hundreds of thousands of cattle that are never fed a mouthful of grain or hay, but simply allowed to run half-wild until they are three or four years old upon the open range.

While maximum results are not secured from this primitive method the fact that it is profitable shows the possibilities under efficient management and proper care and feeding.

### **Change from Cotton to Livestock.**

In that portion of Western Alabama which because of the soil being very dark is nationally known as the "Black Soil Belt," many of the farmers who formerly raised cotton by the thousands of acres have cut down their acreage in cotton, and gone into stock raising, and in this section are to be found all classes of the live stock industry, from the feeder to the breeder of registered stock.

### **Diversified Breeding.**

In fact, one former cotton farmer has become such an enthusiastic devotee of livestock farming that he is successfully and profitably raising on his place pure-bred Herefords, Holstein and Jersey cattle and Duroc hogs, and in the few brief years he has been engaged in breeding stock has attracted national attention by reason of the splendid animals he has been able to produce.



**Sheep Grazing on Alfalfa.**





Shorthorn Yearlings.

Silos are the rule rather than the exception all over this section, and one farm has eight concrete silos, each with a capacity of 250 tons, and is planning to erect others at convenient points on the thousands of acres embraced in their operation.

In many districts the farmers have formed dairy associations and shipped in grade and pure-bred stock, and while the out-put of the creameries has increased at a tremendous rate, they have no difficulty whatever in finding a market for their entire product and because of the vast amount of dairy products annually shipped into the State the market will always be good.

### Sheep.

Whether a man runs a few sheep on a small farm or grazes them extensively on a large acreage in Alabama, they will be found to pay handsome returns. The mild, open winters permit lambing at an early season of the year, with comparatively light mortality, and on the open ranges sheep can always find grazing Summer or Winter and plenty of pure, running water.

The sheep here are not bothered with foot rot, and where ranged on wide areas the stomach worm is not prevalent, as it only comes where the sheep are pastured too closely. Because of the absence of burrs and underbrush in these clean Piney Woods ranges, the wool is always graded very much higher than Western wool and sells at correspondingly increased prices.

No one ever thinks of feeding sheep. There are many sheepmen owning from 500 to 10,000 head of sheep who rarely see them except at clipping time. They are given no attention at the lambing period; in fact, the only care given them at all is to throw salt on the ranges.

The dog menace is no greater here than elsewhere, and for the man with a large flock who would have a herder accompany his sheep the mortality from dogs will amount to practically nothing.



Shorthorn Calves in the Black Soil Belt.



Part of Alabama's 67,686,000 Bushel Corn Crop in 1918.

### Goats.

Goats are also a profitable investment, inasmuch as they are given absolutely no attention, and from the time they are dropped until they are sold, the billies afford all the protection from dogs that is needed.

There is a good local demand in most all localities for goats, and those who might be inclined to sneer at eating goat meat will change their minds as soon as they partake of a young kid that has been properly cooked.

Many of the owners of goats are beginning to cross their flocks with Angora bucks, and this gives them a long, silky clip that is very much in demand at attractive prices, entering as it does into the manufacture of summer clothing for both men and women.

### Montgomery Union Stock Yards.

In July, 1918, the Union Stock Yards at Montgomery opened for business, and in the first seven months handled 50,958 head of cattle, which were disposed of for over \$4,000,000. They also handled 13,731 head of horses and mules in transit.

While this plant has a daily capacity of 2,500 cattle, 5,000 head of hogs and 5,000 sheep, there are times when its facilities are taxed. In January, 1919, the yards handled 25,804 head of cattle, sheep and hogs, for which the producers received three-quarters of a million dollars.

The live stock interests are growing rapidly, and plans are already being drawn for the enlargement of these yards.

### Corn Growing.

There is a tradition that the first corn in North America was brought to Central Alabama by a tribe of peace-loving Indians, who had come north from Mexico



Holstein Calves and Angora Goats.





An Alabama Corn Field.

to escape their savage neighbors, and after crossing the Alabama River were so impressed with the desirability of the country for a home, that they pitched their tents and planted the seed they had brought with them. Whether this be true or not is immaterial, but since Alabama began getting away from the one crop of cotton, it has demonstrated that corn is indigenous to the State and the production has more than doubled in the past decade.

Practically all of the records for big yields of corn are held in the South, and the yield of 237 bushels on a single acre, secured by a member of a Boys' Corn Club in Central Alabama, demonstrates the State's possibilities.

In 1909 the State produced 30,695,737 bushels of corn; in 1916, 47,812,000 bushels; in 1917, 77,200,000 bushels; and in 1918, 67,686,000 bushels were produced. The production more than doubled in nine years.

The price of corn in Alabama is always the price in the North plus the freight rate and brokerage charges, because the demands of the work stock used in the saw-mills and other industries are so much greater than the local supply that it is necessary to import large quantities each year from the North.

One feature that appeals to the corn raiser here is that the crop can be planted any time between March and June and a crop matured. No one thinks of re-planting corn because of the failure of the seed to germinate on account of cold weather and corn is never frozen before being gathered.

### Tobacco.

Another crop that has become very popular since diversification has become the practice is that of tobacco.

In 1916 the State produced 60,000 pounds.



Bright Leaf Tobacco on Cut-over Lands.





Part of Alabama's 820,000 Bales of Cotton Growing Between Pecan Trees.

In 1917 the production had increased to 146,000 pounds, and in 1918, 700,000 were reported.

A representative of one of the development agencies, working with the farmers, supervised a large acreage of tobacco and kept careful records during 1918, and reported an average of 700 pounds per acre, with a gross value of \$200.83 per acre. Every item of cost that entered into the production of this crop amounted to \$72.32, leaving an average of \$128.51, which is the net profit per acre.

A great deal of Sumatra and Havana tobacco, used for fillers and wrappers of cigars is also grown under shade and sells at very high prices because of the duty on the imported tobacco used for cigars.

### Cotton.

Cotton, which at one time was practically the only money crop of Alabama, continues to run into millions of dollars.

In 1916 the State grew cotton valued at \$52,007,000.

In 1917 the value of the crop was \$72,505,000.

In 1918 it reached \$110,700,000 in value.

The value of the cottonseed for 1918 was \$25,155,000.

There is no county in the State that does not produce cotton in great quantities.

While the Northern man who reads this knows nothing of cotton, he will find that it is not difficult to raise, and will fit very satisfactorily into any rotation that he might adopt.

A bale of cotton weighs 500 pounds, and the yield runs from a bale to the acre, down to 125 pounds, depending upon the quality of the land, and the manner in which it is farmed, with an average of 160 pounds to the acre, and for every pound



Bringing the Cotton to Market.





Gathering Peanuts.

of lint cotton produced, there is approximately two pounds of seed. Cotton seed which used to be considered a nuisance, and years ago required legislation to prevent it from being dumped into navigable rivers, sell from \$30.00 a ton in normal times, to \$68.00, which is the present price. Cotton has varied in price the past few years from twelve to thirty cents.

There are few farmers in any section who are not familiar with cottonseed meal or cake as a stock feed. It has three-fourths as much protein, twice the fat, seven times as much ash or lime as corn and oats, and is shipped in trainloads to the dairymen and cattle feeders all over the North and Central West, who pay the Southern price plus the freight and brokerage price. Cottonseed is also used extensively as soap stock and is manufactured into cooking oils.

### Peanuts.

One of the developments in Alabama that has seemed almost magical in its growth is that of peanuts.

In 1909 the State produced 1,573,000 bushels; in 1916, 9,000,000 bushels; in 1917, 13,932,000 bushels were grown; and, in 1918 the crop had grown to 17,480,000 bushels.

The entire crop of peanuts produced in the United States in 1918 was 55,597,000 bushels, valued at \$95,829,000, so that it will be seen that Alabama raised more than 31 per cent of the entire American peanut crop, and more than any two other States.

After the peanuts are dug, there are so many left in the ground that the digger is unable to get out, that an immense number of hogs are fattened each year in the peanut sections, and several large packing houses have been constructed to take care of the hogs.



Irish Potatoes in May in Pecan Orchard.



Sweet Potatoes on Alabama High Lands.

### Potatoes.

In practically every section of Alabama potatoes do well, and in the southern part, they come on the market at such an early period of the year, that they command almost fabulous prices. Several sections are beginning to specialize on them, and the crop has grown from 1,000,000 bushels in 1909 to 4,800,000 bushels in 1918, which had a value of \$8,688,000.

Potatoes form almost an ideal rotation in the farm scheme. In the Southern-most counties they are dug and shipped in May, and any other field crop can be matured on the same acre after the Irish potatoes have been harvested.

### Sweet Potatoes.

The growing of sweet potatoes has also developed into an industry of large proportions, 5,000,000 bushels having been produced in 1909, 13,500,000 bushels in 1917, and 14,688,000 bushels in 1918.

These sweet potatoes are harvested from June 15th, until December, depending on the planting time and the section of the State in which grown, and the prices are very profitable.

Storage houses have been designed that will keep sweet potatoes without rotting even better than Irish potatoes are kept, and the market prices in the late Winter and early Spring months are always very high and the returns satisfactory.

Sweet potatoes will produce from eighty to three hundred bushels to the acre depending upon their care and the season at which they are dug.

The early crop sweet potatoes are grown from slips, or plants, raised in hot beds and forced into early growth by manure and the Alabama sun. When these plants have developed a good growth of vines, cuttings can be taken from the vines without too severely injuring the yield of the early crop, and these vines, simply



Sweet Potato Field on Gulf Coast. One of the State's Big Money-Makers.





Augusta Vetch in Early May. After Cutting the Vetch Two Cuttings  
of Johnson Grass Hay Will Be Harvested.

stuck into the prepared ground with a forked stick, make the late crop of sweet potatoes.

After the early crop is taken off in June, July or August in the southernmost counties a crop of peanuts or any one of several varieties of hay can be raised upon the same acre.

Both sweet and Irish potatoes are grown in every county in the State.

#### Sugar Cane.

Sugar cane is one of the numerous crops in which the Southern States have a monopoly, and last year Alabama produced 8,195,000 gallons of syrup, valued at \$7,898,000.

Sugar cane will run from 150 to 400 gallons of syrup to the acre, and there is always an excellent demand for it at profitable prices.

There were only two counties reported in the State during 1918 that did not raise some good, old-fashioned sorghum, and the production was 9,518,000 gallons.

One of the time-honored customs in Alabama has been the grinding of sugar cane into the toothsome "long sweetening." It was one of the very earliest crops to be planted in the State, and each year its range of consumption is extending until now it is marketed over practically all of the United States.

It is one of the numerous crops that work into the farm rotation here desirably, and not only furnishes a winter's supply of syrup for the family, but very attractive money returns as well.

#### Hay.

For many years it has been the custom of the large users of work stock in Alabama to import their hay from Northern States, because there was not sufficient diversified farming in the State to supply the local demands of the farms, to



Red Clover in the Tennessee Valley.



Black Soil Belt Wheat that Threshed Thirty-four Bushels per Acre..

say nothing of having a surplus left for animals used in the industries, and for this reason hay commands a price that is abnormally high compared with what it brings in Northern States.

The hay production, however, is constantly increasing with the modern trend toward rotation and diversification that is spreading everywhere, and where there were only 400,000 tons of hay raised in 1916, valued at \$5,700,000, in 1917, 1,158,000 tons, valued at \$18,760,000 were produced, and in 1918, 1,293,000 tons, valued at \$26,248,000 was the State's hay crop.

### Wheat.

Alabama is not generally considered as a wheat-producing section, and yet in 1918 there were only nine counties in the State that did not produce some. It is not planted extensively because there are so many other crops that yield so much higher returns and require the use of the ground for a shorter period.

The crop for 1918 was 1,366,000 bushels.

### Oats.

Oats are growing more and more into popularity each year in the State, and form one of its finest grazing crops. There are few counties in the State where it winter-kills, and it is not only threshed, but the practice of cutting it in the dough stage and utilizing both the grain and stalk for hay is one that is very favorably considered, as it enables the farmer to have a succulent supply of hay for his work stock when he begins working them in the Spring.

In 1918 8,125,000 bushels were threshed, valued at \$9,204,000.



Part of Alabama's 8,000,000 Bushel Crop of Oats in 1918.





Velvet Beans—the Great Southern Legume.

### Velvet Beans.

The Western States have rightly boasted of the wonderful revolution in farming brought about by alfalfa. Alabama with equal cause, sings the praises of velvet beans.

While alfalfa is universal, at the present time the South has an absolute monopoly on velvet beans, and it is doubtful if there is any crop that can give the general all-around satisfaction from every standpoint to the farmer that velvet beans do.

They are usually planted between rows of corn in order that the vines may have something to climb on and support the immense crops of beans that are made. They are cultivated at the same time the corn is, and after the ear corn is picked the usual practice is to open the gates and turn in all the cattle and hogs and let them graze the entire Winter upon this corn and bean field. They are one of the heaviest known gatherers of nitrogen, and when cattle feed upon the beans and vines this nitrogen is put back into the soil with the manure. Tales of wonderful increases in yields of corn and other crops are told where the velvet beans had been fed or turned under prior to the planting of the crop.

They will grow on practically every soil in Alabama, require comparatively little care, and when grazed furnish the maximum of feed for cattle and hogs at absolutely no expense for handling.

When the beans are picked and fed it is estimated that two bushels of them will take the place of a bushel of corn. The hay has a feeding value almost equal to alfalfa.

Mills are springing up all over the State where these beans are being ground into feed, and the few samples that have found their way into the North have created a tremendous demand for velvet bean meal. In grinding, the ear corn,



Digging Irish Potatoes to Be Followed by Corn.



A Field of Alabama Cowpeas.

stalk, blades, velvet beans, pods and vines together, a concentrate is secured that is endorsed by everyone having to do with the analyses of the value of feeds.

Where it is desired to turn these velvet bean vines under green because of not having stock to harvest them, there is no crop that will turn under the same tonnage of humus and percentage of nitrogen as the velvet bean, and the increased yields of all crops raised the following year is very apparent.

Velvet beans will grow in old land or new land, and if given a convenient tree to climb on will grow up 50 feet in the air. It is this phenomenal growth, induced by the long growing season, together with high feed value, that makes them such a valuable aid to the farmer.

### Two and Three Crops a Year.

By reason of Alabama's extending so long a distance from north to south, the growing season necessarily varies in different parts of the State.

In North Alabama, after a crop of oats is harvested in the Spring, there is ample time to plant cowpeas, soy beans or corn.

In South Alabama many farmers adopt the custom of planting corn in the middles of their Irish potatoes, so that when the potatoes are dug for the market in May the digging cultivates the corn for the first time, and the corn can either be gathered for silage or have velvet beans planted between the rows, which can be pastured by cattle and hogs until corn planting time the following Spring; or the corn can be taken off for silage or grain and a light crop of cowpea hay secured.

Peanuts, soy beans or velvet beans can be planted easily and safely after Irish potatoes. Peanuts, sorghum and millet can be planted after sweet potatoes, and make a fine crop of hay.



Peanuts in Stack. Alabama Raised 31% of the Nation's Crop in 1918.





Gathering Some of Alabama's Peaches.

When it comes to estimating the number of vegetable crops that can be taken off the same ground in the same year, it is simply a question of the amount of energy that one wishes to put into the work. In Southern Alabama radishes can be planted in January and shipped in February, and before they are dug another crop is planted in the same land, and a succession of radishes, beans, peas, cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons can all be raised on the same acre, which, in most instances, is already planted to pecan trees, Satsuma oranges, peaches, plums or pears.

While it is always a good practice to plant velvet beans in the corn which does not reduce the corn yield, and because of their extraordinary value as cattle feed during all of the Winter, if nothing is planted in the corn middles, a crop of Mexican clover (pursley) will voluntarily come up in this cultivated ground, which will cut from one-half to a ton of hay, and has a food value equal to timothy.

It is not known why this hay voluntarily comes up, but it will come in all fields that have been cultivated for two or more years, and makes a very desirable addition to the farm crops, costing as it does, nothing except the cost of cutting and curing.

Pursley should not be considered a pest that cannot be eradicated, because that is not the case; and it is very easily and rapidly smothered out by any crop, such as rye, oats, cowpeas, peanuts or velvet beans that will shade the ground.

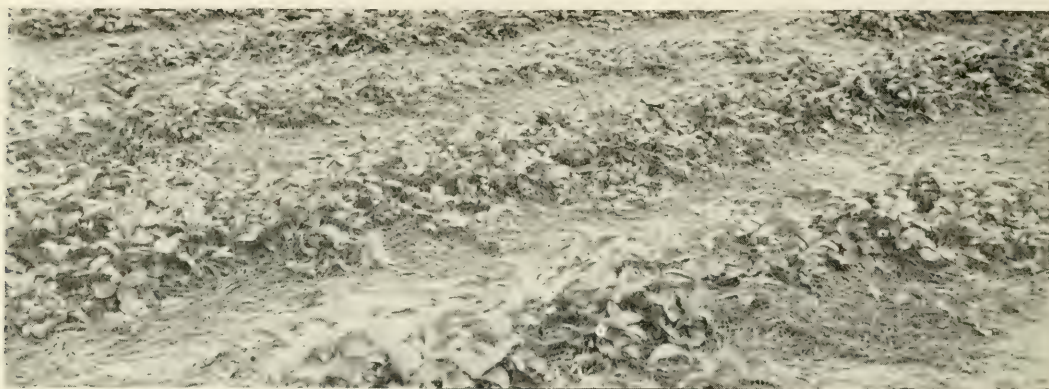
### HORTICULTURE.

Few States are so richly endowed with horticultural opportunities as Alabama. This is especially true in the mountains that enter the State at the northeast corner, extending in a southwesterly direction, where the mildness of climate, abundant rainfall and the fertile soil, which has been enriched for many years with



Strawberries Being Gathered from Between Orchard Trees.





Alabama Strawberries—a Vast Industry.

leaves from the trees, combine to make conditions as nearly ideal for raising apples as could be desired.

The elevation is a reasonable assurance against severe damage by heavy frosts and the purity of the atmosphere produces apples of high color and extraordinary quality.

Every farm in these hills has some apples planted upon it, and there are a great many commercial orchards that ship their apples in car lots. Much attention has been paid in recent years to the proper cultivation, pruning and spraying of the orchards and up-to-date methods of grading and packing them for shipment are the rule and the farmers by reason of their proximity to the great consuming centers of the country enjoy excellent return from their fruit and this industry is growing steadily.

In 1909, the crop was 888,000 bushels; in 1917, 1,452,000 bushels, and in 1918, 1,551,000 bushels of apples were produced.

### Peaches.

Peaches are grown in every county of the State for home use, and there are commercial orchards in the hills and also in the central and southern portion of the State.

The southern part of the State produces the earliest peaches in the United States, and the price is always high because of the demand.

More and more trees are being set out each year and the production is steadily increasing. In 1909, 1,416,000 bushels were produced, and in 1917, 1,830,000 and in 1918, 3,142,000.

### Strawberries.

Many of the orchardists interplant their peach orchards with strawberries, and while waiting for the trees to come into bearing, the yield from the berries usually



Poultry is Highly Profitable in Alabama.





One of Alabama's Famous Paper Shell Pecan Orchards.

pays for the entire cost of the orchard and leaves a profitable balance each year as well.

The berry farms range in area from a few acres to one farm of 200 acres which is probably the largest strawberry plantation owned by one man in the South. One grower who has kept books against his berry farm each year since 1909 states that the crop averages him, year in and year out, a return of \$300 per acre.

They are shipped in refrigerator cars on very fast schedules, and during the height of the season, move in solid train loads and the shipping season lasts longer than in most localities, because the berries ripen early in the Southern part of the State, and as one section finishes shipping, another, located a little farther north, comes in with their crops. Because of their earliness, they always command fancy prices.

### Pears.

Another fruit that is growing into favor is the pear. In 1909, there were 100,041 bushels produced and 1918, 150,000, and a variety known as the sand pear has been developed in the southern counties of the State which is not affected by the fire-blight like the Keiffer.

### Pecans.

Another phase of horticulture that is increasing phenomenally is the growing of the thin shell varieties, known as the paper shell pecan. These pecans have been carefully improved, by judicious bud selection until they have attained a very large size and the shells can be crushed by squeezing two nuts together in the



Watermelons are Shipped to the Northern Markets Early.





**A Satsuma Orange Grove, One of Alabama's Newest Industries.**

hand. The best of these pecans will run from thirty to fifty nuts to the pound, and they sell from fifty to seventy-five cents wholesale, and the yield from old trees runs into the hundreds of pounds.

While it takes seven or eight years for a budded pecan tree to come into bearing, only about a dozen trees are planted to the acre, and the farm is cropped as though there were no trees on it until such time as they become large enough to interfere with the crops grown between the trees by reason of shading them.

### **Satsuma Oranges.**

Ordinarily, Alabama is not considered as being one of the orange-producing sections, but in the last few years this industry has assumed very large proportions in the Southern counties. The variety planted is the Satsuma, a very early orange of delicious flavor that is entirely seedless. It is budded on the stock of a deciduous hardy orange, and is able to go through a temperature of 15° below freezing without being killed.

Over two million trees have so far been planted in the Southern part of the State, and while only comparatively few of the trees have come into bearing, the crop is increasing each year, and the Satsumas are selling at highly gratifying prices.

Cantaloupes and honey dew melons are also raised profitably. Grapes are grown to some extent for local shipment, and especially choice varieties, like the Seedless Sultana, Flaming Tokay, White Muskats and Black Spanish have been tried out and found to grow and mature exceptionally well.

Prunes, kumquats, plums, pomegranates, Japanese persimmons, and, in fact, practically all fruits that are known to the horticulturist find congenial soils and climatic conditions for their growth in Alabama.



**Truck Farm Equipped with Overhead Irrigation System.**





There is an Inexhaustible Market for all Poultry Products in Alabama.

### Trucking.

Trucking is carried on in all parts of the State by farmers who supply local markets and have a small surplus for shipping, but in the Southern counties of the State it has been developed to a point where it ranks as a separate industry. Cucumbers and cabbage are the favorite crops, and many hundreds of cars are shipped each year. English peas, string beans, cauliflower and radishes are also raised to a considerable extent.

Watermelons are shipped in solid trainloads, with very gratifying results to the grower. They ripen early and command fancy prices in the North.

### Poultry.

There is no section on earth that can be said to have a monopoly upon the raising of chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, but Alabama can unquestionably lay claim to be among those most desirably situated for the economical and profitable production of poultry.

The mild climate entails comparatively little expense for the construction of poultry houses, which it is never necessary to heat artificially. The brooders can also be operated in the Winter time with no other heat than that secured from the genial rays of the Southern sun, and there is no week in the year when they cannot be provided some form of green grazing in the open upon which the chickens can run. There is an abundance of grit and gravel, and no purer water can be found.

No other section can produce more chicken feed to the acre than Alabama, and a chicken raiser with a very small acreage can easily and economically raise all the feed his flock will require.



Tobacco and Curing Barn.



One of Alabama's Ante Bellum Homes.

All of the grains grown and sunflowers can be raised for the chicken specialist, and Jerusalem wheat-corn, a distinctly Southern product, will probably give him more tonnage of concentrated chicken feed than any possible combination of feeds he can grow in the North.

The markets of the State and nearby cities furnish a demand for all poultry products at constantly increasing prices. To the energetic man or woman Alabama offers an opportunity for the raising of poultry, and those who specialize on poultry exclusively and raise their own feed and pastures will find the returns exceedingly profitable.

On the average farm there is enough waste matter to keep a good-sized flock of chickens; in fact, in a tier of counties in the east-central part of the State poultry and eggs as by-products of cotton and grain farms have gradually increased until it has developed into an industry that runs into six figures each year.

### Varied Soils.

The soils of Alabama are as diversified as the crops it produces. Any one seeking a new location can find within the State exactly what he desires for growing any special crop he might wish. He can secure land that for many years has been in large cotton plantations that are being cut up into smaller farms. He can get limestone lands and heavy black soils upon which clover and alfalfa thrive. He can get cut-over lands that have never had a crop of any sort raised upon them and require only intelligent management to make them extremely productive. He can buy hill lands for a few dollars per acre that will be almost ideal for orcharding, or he can buy an improved stock farm for \$100 to \$150 per acre in an intensively developed section.



Alabama Alfalfa Which Grows Luxuriantly on the Limestone Soils.





Soy Beans in Tennessee Valley.

There are farming or horticultural opportunities in Alabama for every man's inclinations and pocketbook, and he can secure practically any sort of terms that he might wish.

#### Temperature.

The average temperature of the State as a whole is 63°; northern Alabama 61°; central Alabama 64°; southern Alabama 65°.

The average length of the crop growing season in Northern Alabama is approximately 200 days; Central Alabama 210 to 240 days, and in Southern Alabama 240 to 260 days. This long growing season is what enables the Alabama farmer to raise two and three crops on the same ground in the same season.

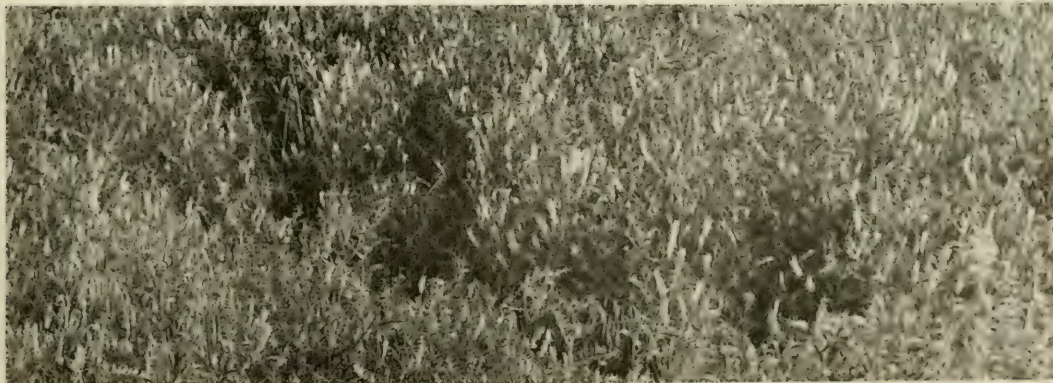
The average number of days during the year with the temperature above 90° is 62°; with the temperature below 32 only 35 days.

#### Precipitation.

The annual average rainfall for the State as a whole is 52 inches, although in the southern counties bordering on the Gulf it ranges between 60 and 63 inches, and in the North-Central and Northeastern portions it ranges between 53 and 57 inches. The rainfall is well distributed throughout the year, and the Autumns are favorable for the maturing and harvesting of the staple crops.

#### A Progressive State.

The State is in step with the progress of development, and rural mail routes and telephone lines form a net work through every county, with much interest manifested in the building of good roads.



A Field of Hairy Vetch.



Alabama has Year 'Round Pastures.

The population of the State is growing steadily and rapidly. In 1910 the population was 2,138,093 and the Census Bureau estimate that on January 1, 1919 it had increased to 2,410,936, an addition of 272,843 in nine years.

#### Principal Cities.

Montgomery, located in the central part of the State, is the capital of the State.

Birmingham, situated in the mineral district, is the largest city.

Mobile, on the Mobile River, is the State's port.

#### Good Schools.

The schools will rank with any to be found in rural communities. Opportunities for higher education are offered by many splendid colleges and universities that are to be found in all sections of the State. Churches of all the denominations are well and capably represented and well attended.

The citizens are warm-hearted, generous and hospitable and stand eager to extend the helping hand of fellowship to any one taking up a residence within the State's borders.

#### Development Agencies.

Among the agencies that have contributed to the development that has taken place in recent years in Alabama should be mentioned the following:

The Alabama farmers themselves, who, by reason of their intelligent reception of the modern methods that have been worked out by scientists, and their eager,



A North Alabama Wheat Field.





Alfalfa and Johnson Grass that Will Cut from Five to Seven Tons to the Acre.

active co-operation have conclusively shown that experiments proven on a small scale can be demonstrated on a wide area under actual farming conditions.

The Alabama Extension Service, which includes Farm Demonstration Agents, Home Demonstration Agents and traveling specialists in marketing, dairying, live stock, horticulture, crop pests and agricultural engineering; Boys' Corn, Calf and Pig Clubs; Girls' Poultry and Canning Clubs, and Women's Home Economic Clubs, which are concerned especially as to the better feeding and the health of the family and the preservation and conservation of all foods.

The Alabama Experiment Station, with principal farm located at Auburn, and several hundred subsidiary field tests in various counties covering the entire State.

The most important of these local tests consist of experiments to determine plant food requirements of corn, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes and other crops of the State.

The tests also include a study of the adaptation of all promising forage crops to different soils; they are also concerned with testing in various counties to determine the adaptability of each soil and climate to the pedigreed varieties of corn, oats, wheat, cotton, etc., bred up by scientific methods at the main experiment station.

The State Department of Agriculture, in its appropriate function of law enforcement and other regulatory work. Especially important in this line is inspection of fertilizers and feed stuffs, the administration of which is in the hands of the State Department of Agriculture, the analyses work on which it is based being made at Auburn.

The State Department of Agriculture also maintains a Marketing Bureau for the farmers' benefit and issues each month the **Alabama Markets Journal**, the mission of which is to help market Alabama products.



Sumatra Tobacco Growing Under Partial Shade. Used for Cigar Wrappers.



A Shorthorn Herd.

The daily, weekly, agricultural and religious press of the State, which has generously disseminated all information relative to the latest methods of profitable farming.

The State Live Stock Association, which developed increased interest and activity in all forms of live stock raising.

The State Board of Horticulture, which has to deal with the prevention of the spread of insect pests and plant diseases, and which is ever-watchful to see that no diseased nursery stock is permitted to be shipped into the State, and, by proper inspection, insures the maintenance of healthful conditions in all of the nurseries of the State.

The State Horticultural Society, which is aggressively behind every latest development pertaining to fruit growing.

Teaching of agriculture in the schools, including not only the State A. & M. College, but also in ten district agricultural high schools, a number of high schools and in many of the public schools.

The Live Stock Sanitary Board, which is concerned with the prevention of diseases among cattle.

The work of the Agricultural Agents connected with the various railroads operating in the State has also contributed to a considerable extent toward the development and prosperity of Alabama.

The Agricultural Agents of the railroads have been carefully selected with reference to their knowledge of agricultural and horticultural conditions, both in the North and the South. They are required to devote their entire time to visiting the farmer, advising and encouraging him to raise maximum yields of the crops best adapted to his particular locality.



"The Grandson" Grand Champion Boar, International Live Stock Exposition, 1912.





A Chert Road in the Alabama Hills.

### Special Aid for Newcomers.

While all farmers are counselled with impartiality, the railroad Agricultural Agents are charged especially to seek out all new arrivals from other sections, and in addition to advising them specifically as to the proper crops and methods to insure them success in the particular locality in which they have settled, also put them in touch with the other development agencies in the county, district and State, so that shortly after his arrival the newcomer is in position to know exactly where to go for any specific authoritative information he may desire upon any subject pertaining to his work.

After the new arrival has made his crop or raised his live stock, these men acquaint him with the best markets and most direct transportation routes.

Should he raise truck crops or fruits, these gentlemen advise him regarding methods of selecting, grading and packing fruits or vegetables; instruct him how to properly load them in the cars so as to get the maximum tonnage in the car without any possible deterioration in the product while en route.

For the perishable products, such as peaches, strawberries, radishes, etc., the railroads furnish refrigerator cars, and their Agricultural Agents advise the shipper regarding the proper amount of ice to put in the bunkers and at what stations en route the cars should be re-iced in order that the products might arrive in good condition at their destination.

Railroad Agricultural Agents also co-operate with all the other development agencies in the State in every line of agricultural, horticultural or live stock endeavor, and, by reason of their familiarity with crops and conditions at various points along the lines of railway, they are enabled to bring exact and definite information to growers who contemplate specializing upon some particular commodity that has not been grown in their locality before.



An Old Cotton Plantation Now Devoted to Alfalfa and Live Stock.



A Bunch of These Are On Every Farm.

All of these various development agencies are at the disposal of the farmer at all times and at no expense to him whatever. It is doubtful if any State in the Union is organized any more highly for assisting the newcomer than Alabama. The newcomer may settle here in perfect security that a certain crop will do well in a certain locality, be advised as to the correct methods to use in causing it to give maximum results, the best manner of caring for his perishables and storing crops can all be answered intelligently and at once by some of the numerous agencies which have given the farmer and his problems practical and sympathetic study.

### Climate As An Aid to the Farmer.

The Alabama farmer has an abundance of time to plant, mature and gather any crop he desires. As a matter of experiment, a farmer in South Alabama has been known to grow two crops of silage corn on the same acre in the same year, although, naturally, such method is not following the best farm practice.

Alabama's climate, aside from the pleasure that one derives in not having to suffer from extremes of heat or cold, actually means a considerable sum to him each year. The heavy clothing and overcoats, mittens and fur caps necessary in the North are unknown here. Neither is it necessary to feed work stock, cattle and hogs as much as in the North, because there is no necessity for them to consume food to keep up their animal heat.

He is also saved the expense of building and maintaining expensive cold-proof barns in which the cattle may winter. In Alabama thousands of cattle spend the entire Winter on the open range, without any shelter whatever except the canopy of heaven, and are not fed a mouthful except what they manage to pick up for



Peaches Come Into Profitable Bearing in Three Years.





Sumatra Tobacco Under Partial Shade.

themselves, and the visitor in the Spring is always surprised at their good flesh. The cattle feeder who supplements the pasturage he has with other feeds finds his cattle not only go through the Winter without loss, but with an actual gain.

Aside from the mere money value of climate, there is a superlative satisfaction in being able to work outdoors practically every day in the year in one's shirt sleeves and to always go without an overcoat. It is a common sight in South Alabama in January and February to see children in the country districts, and even in the towns and cities, romping in their bare legs with no discomfort whatever.

Where it is so delightful in the Winter the stranger naturally assumes that it must be much hotter in the summer than in the North, but such is not the case. No one ever saw a horse in Alabama with a sponge on its head to keep it cool in Summer. Sunstrokes are unknown, and while the thermometer gets up in the 90's, it has only gotten over the 100 mark a very few times in the 30 or 40 years the Weather Bureau has kept records in the State.

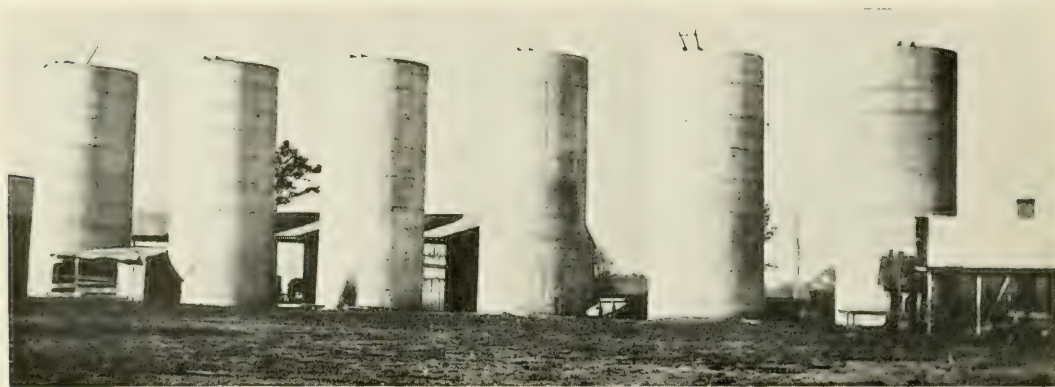
On the days when the temperature is in the nineties the nights are uniformly cool. It is frequently necessary, even in the Southernmost counties of the State, to use a blanket for cover at night.

During all of the Summer months there are frequent showers that are cooling and refreshing, and the breeze that has been cooled from coming across thousands of miles of salt water is always present, and an occasional rest in the shade of a tree will enable any farmer to do as big a days work in the middle of Summer cultivating his crop or putting his hay into the top of his barn as he was ever able to do in the North.

As will be noticed from the temperature and rainfall records, there is ample moisture for the growing of any crop, and it should be borne in mind that the



Cotton and Corn Side by Side in the Black Soil Belt.



A Battery of Silos—Capacity 250 Tons Each.

heavy rains of the winter months can be stored in the clay subsoils and utilized by the crops growing in the early spring.

### Well Merited Recognition.

When the War Department was called upon to train millions of men at army camps, there was no difference of opinion whatever as to where the majority of these camps should be located, and the South by reason of its climate and sanitation, was immediately selected as the location for practically all of the camps and cantonments.

Its mild climate permitted the boys to be given intensive training during both the Summer and Winter months, and the millions of relatives who visited Southern towns near which camps were located in either Summer or Winter carried home with them nothing but praise for the wonderful climate which they found in the South.

Alabama was signally honored in the location of Camp McClellan at Anniston, where the War Department purchased outright many thousands of acres of land and utilized it for intensive and extensive training of artillery units.

At Montgomery there was established Camp Sheridan, where both infantry and artillery were trained. Taylor Field, where the army aviators were trained, and Wright's Field Aviation Repair Depot No. 3 were also established at Montgomery.

It would be impossible to have anything more authoritative as to the health, sanitation and climate of Alabama than the action of the War Department in locating camps here, and the wonderful health records enjoyed by the Alabama camps will always remain a lasting tribute to its climatic advantages.



Registered Jersey Herd.





One of Alabama's Modern Meat Packing Houses.

The same conditions that actuated the War Department officials in selecting Alabama for their army camps hold equally true with respect to any farmer desirous of changing his location.

### Why Land Prices Are Low.

When one realizes that the field crop production of Alabama during 1918, exclusive of livestock, is very close to half a billion dollars, it is difficult to realize that a State producing such a volume of agricultural wealth can still be said to contain productive lands that can be purchased at low prices and on easy terms.

The explanation of this is very simple when the local conditions are understood. For many years, and in some instances generations, the lands in the northern and central portions of the State have been operated as extensive cotton plantations almost exclusively. These plantations have been handed down from father to son, and have increased in area with each generation.

Under the present economic conditions labor has been attracted to the cities by reason of the large daily wages which they receive being more enticing than an annual settlement from their share of the cotton crop, and it has become necessary for the owners of these plantations to divide their extensive farms into small places of forty and eighty acres and upwards and to dispose of them upon favorable terms.

These plantation owners have more land than they can possibly hope to cultivate under present labor conditions, and the result is there are innumerable opportunities in the farming line of which the energetic man can take advantage.

The lumberman having cut his timber is also unable to farm the cut-over lands, and so he offers them at low prices and favorable terms.



Threshing Five Bushels Oats per Minute.



Baby Beef on Alfalfa Pasture in February.

### Many Settlements of Northerners.

In many parts of Alabama there are colonies of Northern and Western people who have settled together because of sharing the same religious beliefs or racial blood.

### Feed Mills.

While velvet beans are most economically harvested by allowing cattle and hogs to range through the fields, where they consume practically 100% of the entire crop, the demand on the part of dairymen and cattle feeders for a concentrate has caused many mills to be established throughout the State, where the ear corn, stalks, blades and the velvet beans, vines, pods and stems are all ground together, making practically a perfectly-balanced ration.

The demand for this concentrate is much greater than it has so far been possible to supply, and the raising of velvet beans for grinding into meal gives promise of becoming an industry of almost as great economic wealth as the cottonseed industry has already proven to Alabama.

### The City Man On An Alabama Farm.

Whether or not the city man can succeed on the farm without previous experience is a question frequently asked. As far as Alabama is concerned, there is no question whatever about his being able to succeed.

The modern farmer is not the rustic "Rube" pictured on the stage who rises at dawn and finishes the evening chores by lantern light. In this age of efficiency the farmer who, by adopting modern methods and machinery, gets a maximum of efficient labor from his employees and raises products where the margin between the cost of production and sale is sufficient to show him a profit is the man who will succeed on the farm. While labor is cheaper in the South than in other sections, the man who gets most for his labor is the one who provides it with modern machinery that increases the productive capacity of the man.





Feed Mills Afford Cash Market for Velvet Bean and Grain Crops.

Some old farmers continue to show some hesitancy to adopt modern methods. Having been educated in the school of hard work, they are more or less of the opinion that long hours and back-breaking manual labor make for success on the farm.

The city man, on the other hand, is an eager student, and not having farmed before, will adopt the methods and advice which is so freely offered him, and if he does not permit his enthusiasm to induce him to extend his operations beyond his financial ability to care for them, he is reasonably sure of success.

The city man, therefore, need have no fear in coming to Alabama to farm or to engage in fruit raising. If he will diligently follow the advice of the various development agencies and adopt the methods of the successful farmer in the community where he has settled, diversify and rotate his crops and arrange his farming system so as to have money coming in at different periods of the year, nature will cheerfully co-operate with him, and there is no reason for his becoming a failure.

There are a very large number of city men now successfully farming in Alabama who had never put a collar on a horse or turned over a furrow until they did it on their Alabama farm, and whether they were carpenters, mechanics, clerks or professional men, those who work as intelligently on their farms as they had in their former occupations have prospered to such an extent that nothing could induce them to return to the city work in which they were formerly engaged.

### Come and See Alabama.

The wonderful opportunities that Alabama offers can be best appreciated by a personal inspection of the conditions as they exist: that is all the Agricultural Section of the United States Railroad Administration asks. "Come and see Alabama" and you will be convinced.

# Agricultural Opportunities In Alabama

By DR. CHARLES C. THACH,  
President Alabama Polytechnic Institution

Alabama offers the glad hand to any one who desires to make a good livelihood from the land. Really, the story of the possibilities of farming in Alabama is so good that I am afraid to tell it! The climate temperate, rain-fall about fifty inches per year, health conditions excellent, arable land plentiful, schools and churches better every year, in highway construction among the leading States in the Union, railway centers for distribution abundant—all the elements that go to make farm life profitable and pleasant!

Practically every variety of farm products can be raised with profit in the State. In three staple crops Alabama leads the Union, namely—sweet potatoes, peanuts, and velvet beans. The cotton crop is about a million bales a year; corn about seventy million bushels; oats about eight million bushels.

In the Tennessee Valley the best grasses and clovers flourish. In the hilly sections of the State, the finest varieties of apples can be grown. In the western section truck-gardening flourishes. In many counties grape growing is highly successful; while citrus fruit culture throughout the entire Gulf coast section is one of the most remarkable fruit developments of recent years.

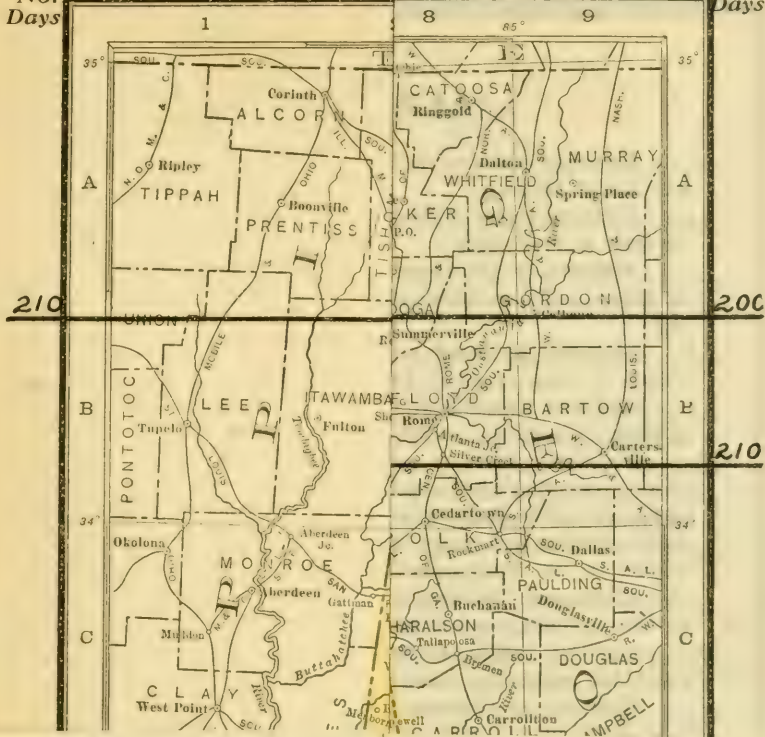
By actual demonstration pork can be produced as cheaply as in any part of the United States. In the western prairie section of the State where alfalfa and all grasses can be grown with the greatest profit, cattle can also be raised as cheaply as in any other section. Cattle can be cared for out-of-doors the whole year round. Tick eradication has been made effective by a State-wide law, and each week records a tremendous increase in high-grade cattle for beef and dairy purposes. Owing to the out-door life, there is less tuberculosis than in any section of the Union. Mr. Rommell, Chief United States Department of Animal Husbandry, says cattle raising in Alabama is of national interest.

Although the average value of land has increased at least five dollars an acre in a year, there are available good lands at a cheaper rate than anywhere in the Nation. A farmer in the Northwest by selling his land might re-invest in three times the number of acres of equally good land in Alabama—in a word, he can farm in Alabama with much less capital than in the more congested sections of the Nation.

These are a few of the good things that Alabama offers to all good American citizens who wish to make their homes with us. They are yours for the coming.



No.  
Days



# ALABAMA

Alabama contains 32,818,560 acres, of which 20,732,312 are in farms.

Alabama ranks eighteenth in population and twenty-seventh in land area.

Alabama is the second State in the Union in point of cheap and accessible cut-over lands for general farming.

Alabama produced more than a half billion dollars worth of farm crops in 1918.

Alabama stands first in the list of States in the production of peanuts, velvet beans, and sweet potatoes.

Alabama grows a great variety of food and feed crops—corn, hay, peas, peanuts, velvet beans, soy beans, sugar cane, sorghum, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, alfalfa, clovers, and every variety of vegetables and fruits known to the Temperate Zone.

Alabama is the home of the pecan nut and the acreage to this orchard crop is rapidly increasing.

Alabama produces nearly half as many hogs as Missouri, the great live stock State of the West.

Alabama is destined to become one of the leading live stock States of the Union. Already it is making rapid strides along this line. The best blood lines of cattle and hogs are in evidence throughout the State.

Alabama has a wonderful diversity of soils, which respond readily to the demands of intensive farming. The United States Bureau of Soils has completed the soil surveys of 55 of the 68 counties in the State.

Alabama has an equable climate and is free from long drouths. The State is never visited by general crop failures.

Alabama has an average growing season of two hundred days in the northern counties; two hundred and ten days in the central section, and two hundred and forty to two hundred and sixty days in the southern part. The average rainfall for the State is fifty-one inches, and the average temperature is sixty-three degrees.

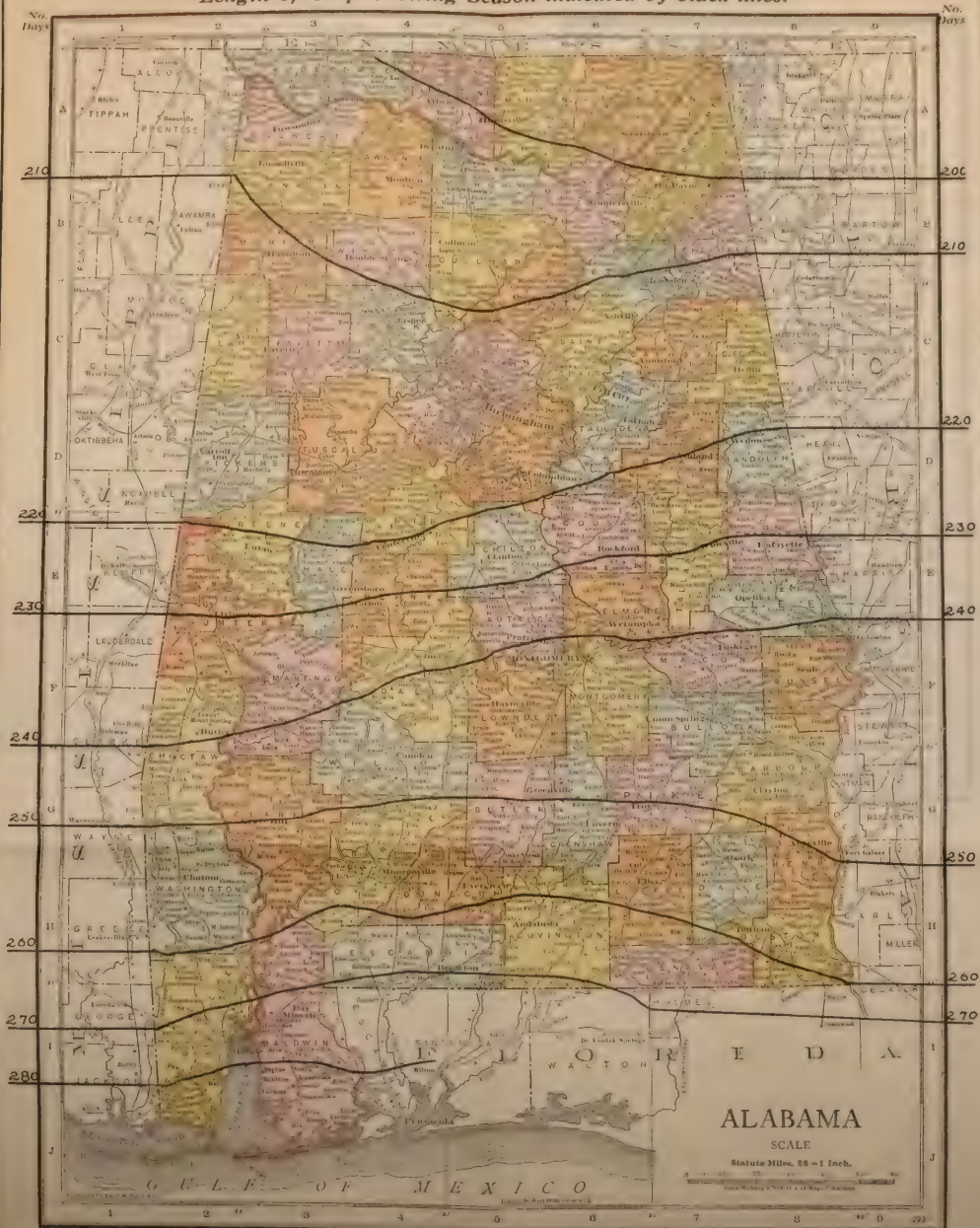
Alabama is all American and is loyal to the slogan, "Made in America", but naturally we like it better when we can point with pride to some product and say it was "Made in Alabama." The invitation is cordially extended to the prospective home-seeker, farmer, manufacturer, professional man, and to all parties looking for legitimate investment to come to our State. As a great producing commonwealth Alabama is indeed the open door to your opportunity.

*By M. C. ALLGOOD*

*Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries*



*Length of Crop Growing Season indicated by black lines.*



*"Climate is like Gold. It is only where you find it".*

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# ALABAMA



**ALABAMA LEADS THE NATION  
IN PEANUT PRODUCTION**











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